

Appl. No. 10/808,996

Paper dated April 12, 2007

Reply to Office Action dated January 12, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached 1 sheet of drawings reflect changes to Figure 1 and replace the original sheet of this Figure.

In Fig. 1, legends were added to the block elements.

Attachments: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. **Status of the Claims and Explanation of Amendments**

Claims 1-5, 22 are pending in this application, including independent claim 3. Applicant respectfully acknowledges Examiner's recognition of the novelty of the claimed invention. At the outset, the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 3 is acknowledged with appreciation. As to the merits, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 22 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,476,869 to Sekine et al. ("Sekine"). [01/12/07 Office Action at p. 4.]

By this paper, claim 3 is amended, and claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 3 is amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 2.

Support for the amendments are found throughout the application as originally filed, for example, in at least originally filed claims 1 and 2. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

B. **Informal Matters**

As claim 3 has been amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 2, the Office's objection of claim 3 is rendered moot.

C. **Specification**

By this paper the title is amended. This amendment is believed to resolve the objections of the January 12, 2007 Office Action at page 1. Applicant notes, however, that the

title has been amended to merely enable the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and gist of the technical disclosure and to aid indexing, classifying and searching. 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(a); MPEP § 606.01. This amendment is ***not*** intended to narrow, limit, alter or otherwise characterize what Applicant regards as the invention. It is, of course, the claims and not the title that defines the invention being claimed.

D. **Office's Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 22 are Rendered Moot**

Applicant's cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 22 renders the Office's 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection moot.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

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CONCLUSION


For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5353.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 12, 2007

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